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Montana educators honored at UM reception

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NEWS RELEASE

March 31, 2009

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MONTANA EDUCATORS HONORED AT UM RECEPTION

MISSOULA —

The 20th Annual School of Education Reception to honor educators from around the state was held at The University of Montana on Friday, March 27.

The theme of this year's reception was "Celebrating Partnerships." Around 400 educators attended the event, which was held in the University Center Ballroom.

Laurie Rossberg, a seventh-grade language arts teacher at East Middle School in **Butte**, was presented the 2009 Maryfrances Shreeve Award for Teaching Excellence.

In her 18 years at East Middle School, Rossberg has made a positive contribution to the lives of hundreds of students – as a teacher, student council adviser, volleyball director and cross-country coach.

The award is named for the late Maryfrances Shreeve, who taught with distinction around western Montana and was the first recipient.

The Marlene Bachmann Student Teaching Award went to Emily Carlton, who completed her fall 2008 student teaching experience in music education in the **Frenchtown** School District.

Carlton provided general music education for more than 480 children in grades K-4 and taught choir and percussion at the high school level. Her ability to genuinely connect with

children and youth across the age span earned her the respect of students, colleagues and supervisors.

The Educational Leadership Excellence Award, presented by UM's Department of Educational Leadership, went to Kris Kuehn, superintendent of the **Malta** Public School District.

Originally from **Columbus**, Kuehn received a bachelor's degree in biology and secondary education and a master's degree in education leadership from UM. He has spent 16 years in education, the last five as the superintendent in Malta, a K-12 district of 550 students. In addition to his district duties, Kuehn has been active at the state level, lobbying the legislature and serving on statewide education committees.

Awards to honor School of Education partners who collaborate to prepare future professionals also were presented at the reception. Partners serve as mentors, subject specialists and curriculum consultants.

Partnership Awards went to:

- Alane Dobie of Community Medical Center in Missoula. Dobie was recognized by UM's Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders for sharing her passion by stepping forward to volunteer her 22 years of experience with CSD students on a weekly basis to allow them to observe speech language services in a medical setting.
- Cindy Christensen, principal of Lowell Elementary School in Missoula. Christensen was recognized by UM's Department of Counselor Education for her ability to easily cross all the professional boundaries to welcome counseling interns in many capacities at Lowell. She received a master's degree and administrative endorsement from UM and taught in Hamilton and Missoula before becoming a widely respected principal at Lowell.
- Lisa Beczkiewicz, supervisor, Missoula Flagship Program. Beczkiewicz was recognized by UM's Department of Health and Human Performance for being instrumental in providing meaningful academic service learning projects for students. Beczkiewicz currently does recruitment presentations with nine professors in the School

of Education, working with them to integrate more real life experiences into academic courses.

UM's Department of Curriculum and Instruction 2009 Partnership Awards went to the administrators and faculty in the following schools for mentoring future educators by providing rich teaching/learning experiences for UM students:

- **Arlee Joint School District #8**
- **Big Sky High School: Business, Information & Technology Department, School District #1, Missoula**
- Rattlesnake Elementary School, District #1, Missoula
- Target Range School, District #23, Missoula.

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